

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-10, 12-14, and 17-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over WO 99/38167 indicated as corresponding to U.S. patent 6,553,180 to Kikuchi, U.S. patent application publication 2001/0016108 to Itoh et al. (herein "Itoh"), U.S. patent 6,005,679 to Haneda, and U.S. patent 6,215,746 to Ando et al. (herein "Ando"). Claims 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kikuchi, Itoh, Haneda, and Ando as applied to claims 1, 4-10, and 12-14, and further in view of U.S. patent 6,357,042 to Srinivasan et al. (herein "Srinivasan").

The above-noted rejections are traversed by the present response as discussed next.

Each of the independent claims is amended by the present response to clarify both a plurality of menu thumbnail pictures and a plurality of mark thumbnail pictures are generated, to further recite a menu thumbnail file is formed of "only said plurality of menu thumbnail pictures of said first thumbnail data" a mark thumbnail file includes "only said plurality of mark thumbnail pictures of said second thumbnail data", and further "wherein said menu thumbnail file includes only one thumbnail picture per a playlist, each playlist further including a plurality of said mark thumbnail pictures".

The above-noted features are believed to be clear for example from Figure 20 in the present specification. As shown for example in Figure 20 in the present specification, the generated plurality of menu thumbnails all form a single menu thumbnail file, and the generated plurality of mark thumbnail files all form a mark thumbnail file. That is, the menu thumbnail file includes plural menu thumbnails and the mark thumbnail file includes plural mark thumbnails. As also shown in Figure 20 a playlist includes only one menu thumbnail file and plural mark thumbnail files.

The features clarified in the claims are believed to clearly distinguish over the previously applied art.

The outstanding rejection relies on Haneda to disclose a file of only thumbnail data and that different types of thumbnail data may be formed in different and independent files, the “Response to Arguments” in the Office Action now stating:

As described, Haneda teaches forming plurality of image files. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that a file is identified by a unique file name (including the path name) and occupies a certain amount of storage area on a recording medium that is different from the areas used for other files. So each file is independent from the other at least in those two aspects. This is clearly illustrated by Haneda in Fig. 23, where each image file is identified by a unique name and stored under regions, each of which is identified by an album name.¹

In reply to that grounds for rejection, it appears the outstanding Office Action is indicating that in Haneda different thumbnails will be formed in different independent files. However, the claims as written do not recite such features as relied upon in Haneda. Instead, in the claims plural menu thumbnail files are formed in one file and plural mark thumbnail files are formed in another file. Haneda clearly does not correspond to such features as clarified in the claims.

In that respect applicants note in the claims as written a file includes only plural menu thumbnail files and another file includes only plural mark thumbnail files. Haneda does not disclose or suggest such features.

Applicants further submit none of the applied art discloses or suggests the further feature now clarified in the claims that:

wherein said menu thumbnail file includes only one thumbnail picture per a playlist, each playlist further including a plurality of said mark thumbnail pictures and indicating a database of a group of playback domains of the input moving picture data[.]

¹ Office Action of Jan. 4, 2008, pg. 2, lines 12-18 of the “Response to Arguments” section.

Again with respect to Figure 20 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, a playlist includes only one menu thumbnail picture but plural mark thumbnail pictures.

Applicants submit none of the applied art discloses or suggests such features.

With respect to the features of the playlist including only one thumbnail picture, the outstanding Office Action cited Ando, and specifically states:

...Ando describes a play list which contains a thumbnail pointer that indicates a thumbnail picture corresponding to the recording contents of the play list. In other words, each play list has a thumbnail picture to represent its contents.²

In reply to that grounds for rejection, applicants note the claims are not directed to such cited disclosures in Ando. The claims are not directed to providing a single thumbnail picture for a playlist, but instead in the claims each playlist includes a single menu thumbnail file but plural mark thumbnail pictures. The noted disclosure in Ando is not at all directed to such features.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit the claims as written distinguish over the applied combination of teachings of Kikuchi, Itoh, Haneda, and Ando. Further, applicants respectfully submit no teachings in Srinivasan overcome the above-noted deficiencies in Kikuchi, Itoh, Haneda, and Ando.

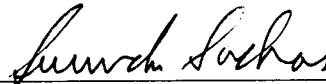
In view of the present response, applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written are patentable over the applied art.

² Office Action of Jan. 4, 2008, pg. 3, lines 13-16 (original emphasis).

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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